

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 108-118, 122-132, 136-144, 148-182, 184, 210, and 233-244 are pending with Claims 116-118 and 171-173 amended and Claims 233-244 added by way of the present amendment.

In the Notice of Allowance of February 24, 2004, Claims 108-118, 122-132, 136-144, 148-182, 184, and 210 were allowed.

Dependent Claims 116-118 and 171-173 are amended to more clearly describe and distinctly claim Applicants' invention. Dependent Claims 233-244 are directed to alternative embodiments of Applicants' invention. Support for amended Claims 116-118 and 171-173 and dependent Claims 233-244 is found in Applicants' originally filed specification. No new matter is added.

Accordingly, in view of the present amendment and in light of the previous discussion, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request an early and favorable action to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Masayasu Mori
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 47,301
Michael E. Monaco
Registration No. 52,041

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)